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**Charge of the Regional Deer Advisory Teams  
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**BACKGROUND:** With the adoption of the Michigan Deer Management Plan on May 6, 2010, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) committed to establishing a Regional Deer Advisory Team (RDAT) for each ecologically-based region of Michigan. Each RDAT will correspond to the boundaries of the DNRE hunting and trapping zones, with Zone 1 being the Upper Peninsula (UP), Zone 2 the Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP), and Zone 3 the Southern Lower Peninsula (SLP). Each RDAT will be composed of members with a direct connection to issues in the corresponding region, either as private individuals affected by deer hunting and management or representatives of organizations with members or constituents in the region. Topics for potential recommendations will be coordinated among the UP, NLP, and SLP so that deer program areas are comprehensively reviewed. Recommendations provided by each RDAT may differ when the need for regionally distinct approaches to management are warranted.

**CHARGE:** Each RDAT will serve as an advisory group to the Wildlife Division, to provide direct input to Division staff and to aid in communications with the public and key partners and organizations. Biannual meetings will be co-chaired and other communications facilitated by the Deer Program Leader (or an alternate Wildlife Division employee) and an RDAT member selected by the group. All individuals submitting an application for potential appointment to an RDAT must agree to:

- Allow an initial background check to be performed to ensure appointees have not committed natural resource violations
- Serve their full appointment
- Attend all biannual RDAT meetings (one in the winter, one in the summer)
- Meet or correspond between biannual meetings as necessary to complete tasks
- Have access to and be willing to regularly use the internet for correspondence
- Attend local open houses, which will be open public meetings for sharing information and gathering public input, in their region as they are able
- Assist in conveying information regarding group activities and work products to the DNRE Citizen Advisory Committees and the Natural Resources Commission
- Actively seek input from and convey the formal positions or general perspectives of their community, peers, or the organization they are representing
- Respectfully consider multiple perspectives, review information, and explore possibilities while seeking shared understanding

**TIMEFRAME:** Each RDAT will hold an annual winter (post-deer season) meeting for discussion, information-sharing, and identification of priority issues or program areas for assessment. Local open houses may be hosted by Wildlife Division following these meetings to gather additional public input, particularly regarding identified priority topics. At least one RDAT member will be asked to volunteer to participate in each open house. Each RDAT will also hold an annual summer (pre-deer season) meeting for finalization of input or recommendations. RDAT members will then be asked to discuss the nature of this input with the public during the following deer hunting season in order to aid with communications regarding potential future program directions. Meeting agendas and identification of methods for concluding each item of business will be prepared by the Deer Program Leader and RDAT co-chair in a timely fashion before each RDAT meeting.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Initial appointments to each RDAT will include terms of either two years or three years, in order to ultimately allow all members to serve three year staggered terms. Individuals may be reappointed to additional terms. Organizations with an interest in deer hunting and management may identify both a primary representative and an alternate representative to be considered for appointment, with the alternate participating in meetings when the primary representative is unavailable. Both primary and alternate representatives must complete an application. At-large members, who may be hunters or other community leaders not representing any organization, will also be appointed to each RDAT. The Chief of the Wildlife Division, in consultation with DNRE leadership and the Natural Resources Commission, will make all appointments to each RDAT and determine when any appointments must be revoked if existing members fail to fulfill expectations of the charge. Replacement appointments may be made to serve the duration of any term vacated for any reason.